New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada.

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Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% of the land is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)* or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993)* address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. The *Tłı̨cho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement* received Royal Assent on 5 February 2005.

Government and the Dehcho First Nations have signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Metis Nation is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The *Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has led 11 to First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/ Carmacks, Selkirk, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kluane, Kwanlin Dün and Carcross/ Tagish. Three Yukon First Nation claims are outstanding.

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management

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Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Overlap exists in claim areas

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Canada Yukon Government Nunavut Protected Areas Strategy

Aussi disponible en français

plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on land claim agreements may be found at the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site at **www.inac.gc.ca**, by following the links through the Site Map to Publications and Research; Agreements; Comprehensive Claims Agreements.

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Aboriginal Land Claims

Editor's Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources and is updated yearly. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to Aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

A Brief Overview

In Canada, the common law concept of Aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal people have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy has been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision), which acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

- comprehensive claims – based on the concept of continuing Aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
- specific claims – arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with Aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with Aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of Aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources.

Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the Aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements. Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the Aboriginal community and government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with Aboriginal people. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal rights as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and Aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect Aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

The 1997 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Delgamuukw* has initiated calls from within Aboriginal communities to once again review the comprehensive claims policy. The *Delgamuukw* decision is the first comprehensive treatment by the Supreme Court of Canada of Aboriginal title. Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to, or at the same table as, the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider

constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other Aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Deh Cho

After the failure of the *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1990, the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Territory and their own process to deal with the Crown. The Deh Cho Process is the governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DFN. Negotiations have resulted in a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement.

The Framework Agreement sets out the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a regional land use planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

In 2002, this group, formally known as the South Slave Metis Tribal Council, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Metis Nation. When the *Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* failed to be ratified by a majority of the Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims in this part of the NWT. However, in the South Slave District, the Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene opted to seek fulfillment of their treaty land entitlements rather than enter into a regional comprehensive land claim. This left some Metis in the area without a vehicle to press for their concerns.

The then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada offered to enter into a non-rights based process with the Metis of the South Slave District to deal with their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process – land and resources and, after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues. In 2006 the Main Table reached agreement on 62 key outstanding issues, clearing the way for the drafting and review process for chapters of the Agreement-in-Principle.

Akaitcho Treaty 8

In 2000, negotiations began between government and the approximately 2,000 Akaitcho Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Nunavut boundary. After a break in 2002, negotiations resumed in January 2003, with emphasis on lands and governance issues and are progressing.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Ivvavik National Park of Canada

Stokes Point (Ikpikyuk) is located on the Yukon North Slope in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of Canada's western Arctic. Over the past fifty years this site has had numerous federal land managers and seen a wide variety of uses. During the Cold War, the United States Air Force built and operated a short-lived Intermediate Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line Station known as BAR-B. In the 1980s, an exploration facility was established on site by Gulf-Beaudril during the last Beaufort Sea oil and gas boom. In 1984, Stokes Point became part of Ivvavik National Park of Canada, the first national park established in Canada through an Aboriginal land claim agreement – the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

Over the period of occupancy, clean-up efforts at Stokes Point have been piecemeal and no detailed

assessment of contamination has ever been conducted. In response to concerns raised by the community of Aklavik and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Parks Canada Agency (PCA) commissioned a preliminary study of the landfill at the former BAR-B site in 2000 and 2001. The study indicated the presence of contaminants such as heavy metals, fuel, and pesticides. As the current federal land manager responsible for Stokes Point, PCA is taking the lead to clean-up the former Stokes Point BAR-B DEW Line site in order to enhance the ecological integrity of Ivvavik National Park. In 2006, PCA partnered with the Department of National Defence to complete the first of two field seasons to investigate the nature and extent of possible contamination, and determine the risk posed by on-site contaminants to human health and the environment. As part of the investigation, geotechnical and archaeological assessments will provide additional information necessary to draft a site clean-up plan. Potential sites for future landfills and gravel sources will be identified; existing site infrastructure, such as roads and airstrips, will be assessed to support future clean-up activities; and cultural resources will be considered and protected as part of the remediation plan.

A clean-up plan for the site will be developed in 2007 and 2008 by PCA in close consultation with the Stokes Point Steering Committee. The project advisory panel consists of representatives from Inuvialuit and Government of Canada organizations. Input from stakeholders will be sought, including the community of Aklavik and nearby Beaufort-Delta communities, various Inuvialuit co-management boards, and federal and territorial government departments.

The work proposed in 2007 and 2008 is subject to approvals under the environment assessment processes in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and receipt of additional funding from the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan Program.

For more information on this project contact please contact Ed McLean, Project Co-lead for Parks Canada Agency, at *ed.mclean@pc.gc.ca* or call 867.777.8803.

Parks Canada, 2006

The Stokes Point Steering Committee and their resource staff - June 2006
L to R: Glen Gordon (ACC), Roland Selamio (AHTC), Jacquie Bastick (PCA), Christy Miskelly (RMC), Don D. Storr (AHTC), Ed McLean (PCA), Dr. Ken Reimer (RMC), Mike Harlow (IRC), John Snell (PCA), Carol Arey (ACC), Kim Kalen (DND) – (Missing) Kyle Sherwin (IRC) and new replacement representatives for the AHTC, Dennis Arey and Billy Archie.

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

A crew of six people conducted a ten-day archaeological field project north of Uyarsivik (Cache Lake) near the Hornaday River. Excavations of two small stone features at two sites were completed. The first excavation was a single tent ring on a high plateau, about 100 meters above the surrounding terrain. Inuit camped here within the last few hundred years for only a short time, as is evidenced by the paucity of artifact recoveries. A few flecks of wood charcoal, fish bone and quartzite flakes were found.

The second excavation was at a nearby hunting blind at a slightly higher elevation. It commands an extensive view of the countryside and the caribou which frequently pass through the area in large and small numbers. The socketed bone handle of a knife was found here in addition to some quartzite flakes.

Four wooden artifacts were also recovered from the ground surface in the area of the Many Caches Site. This site sits high above a bend of the Hornaday River and contains numerous caches as well as some qayaq rests, storage units and butchering stations. It was here that people would hunt caribou from their qayait as herds crossed the river in the fall. The butchered meat was frozen into large caches and the qayait were left for the next hunt. The wooden artifacts, which may be qayaq and bow fragments, are being conserved at the Parks Canada Agency office in Winnipeg to be analyzed at a later date.

A number of marker rocks on the higher ground around the long lake just north of the east end of Uyarsivik were recorded. These are small rocks placed on a larger boulder. Although there are a number of these in the area, their purpose is not clear, although some may have been used to funnel caribou.

Government of Yukon – Tourism and Culture
Historic Sites Unit

Herschel Island Territorial Park

Herschel Island Territorial Park was created through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, and is home to 12 historic buildings dating from as far back as 1893. Work in 2006 was carried out on the Rangers' Quarters (formerly the Royal Canadian Corps of Signalers Transmitter Station) and the Northern Whaling and Trading Company (NW&TC) store/warehouse.

Work on the Rangers' Quarters entailed the addition of insulation to the floors, replacement of the flooring and repairs to the storm windows and shutters to make them more energy efficient and the space more comfortable for the Rangers who occupy the building during the shoulder seasons. In addition, the roof of the NW&TC store/warehouse was reinforced.

The NW&TC building was one of three buildings relocated due to shoreline erosion – in 2003 and again in 2004. The erosion is being exacerbated by receding sea ice which allows increased wave action during late summer and fall storms. The situation continues to be monitored to see if further action will be necessary.

Shoreline erosion and permafrost erosion of interior portions of the historic settlement area at Pauline Cove was part of a presentation at the World Heritage Centre in Paris in the spring of 2006. This situation was one example of the effects of climate change on cultural resources in Yukon. Other examples presented included permafrost decay in the Klondike region and the melting of alpine ice patches in the area east of Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada. The decay of permafrost threatens the stability of historic structures and community infrastructure, and the melting of alpine ice patches is exposing ancient hunting artifacts that have been buried and frozen for up to 9,000 years.

Learn more about Herschel Island at: ***http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Herschel/English/menu.html***

Sahtu Settlement Area

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

Sahoyúé - ?ehdacho National Historic Site

On March 11, 2007, twelve years of work culminated in the signing of a landmark agreement between Parks Canada, the Deline First Nation and the Deline Land Corporation. Under the agreement, the parties will work toward the permanent protection and co-operative management of Sahoyue - ?ehdacho National Historic Site of Canada (NHS). The site will be managed in a way that enables the Sahtu Dene and Metis to continue their traditional use of the land and provide Canadians the opportunity to experience and appreciate this land and its heritage values.

Sahoyue - ?ehdacho was designated a NHS in 1997 as a result of consultations with the Sahtu Dene and Metis. It is the first Canadian NHS to be acquired on the basis of consultations and co-operation with Aboriginal peoples. Located on two huge peninsulas jutting out into Great Bear Lake, NWT, this site is 5,587 km^2 – an area of land approximately the size of Prince Edward Island. The NHS is unique to Canada in that it represents the cultural and historical importance of the Sahtugot'ine and protects large-scale landscape features that are deeply rooted in culture and tradition.

For the Sahtugot'ine this territory is sacred, as these areas represent the importance of traditional narratives to their culture. The

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Signing of the agreement – L to R: Raymond Taniton, former Chief (witness); Chief Charlie Neyelle, Deline First Nation; John Baird, Minister of the Environment; Leroy Andre, President, Deline Land Corporation; Joe Handley, NWT Premier (witness).

peninsulas evoke stories that assist in understanding the relationship between the land and the Sahtu culture and values. For the first time in Canada, history lives on in the landscape. Protecting the landscape features that relate to stories and oral history is critical to the survival of Sahtu traditions on the land. This extensive oral tradition brings the history alive and signifies the importance of these sacred lands to the Shatugot'ine and the heritage of Canada.

Government of the NWT – Industry, Trade and Investment

Territorial Parks

Proposed Doi T'oh Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail

In January 2007, the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment of the Government of the NWT (GNWT) approved the *Doi T'oh Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail Management Plan*. This is the first step in a process to develop a territorial park in the Sahtu region of the NWT.

The plan describes initiatives that will guide the conservation and management of a proposed park along the CANOL Trail and Dodo Canyon, first identified in the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* in 1994. The plan also includes a protected areas agreement which outlines the impact and benefits of a proposed park for claimants of the Agreement. The park planning process was identified as a priority in 2006, resulting in a management plan jointly developed between Sahtu Aboriginal land corporations and the GNWT. The main goals of the plan are to contribute to maintaining a healthy ecology and wildlife population while providing wilderness recreational enjoyment and educating visitors about traditional use. Subsistence harvesting in the area will continue.

Doi T'oh means "sheep's nest" in the Mountain Dene language. The region represents a blend of the NWT's extraordinary natural beauty, the culture of the Mountain Dene, and the history of the CANOL Heritage Trail which was built during World War II to support an oil pipeline. Visitors will experience the cultural interpretation of the Mountain Dene and the heritage interpretation of the CANOL Trail remnants; wildlife, such as grizzly bear, moose and wolves; extreme wilderness hiking in the summer, and snowmobiling in the winter.

The proposed park boundaries are prescribed in the Sahtu Land Claim. The park will follow the 355 km route of the CANOL Trail from the Mackenzie River near Norman Wells, southwest to the Yukon border, and will be two kms wide for the most part. It will encompass the wider area of Dodo Canyon in the northeast, and where it passes through a few Sahtu Settlement Land parcels, the park will only be 60 metres wide.

The next steps in the creation of the proposed Doi T'oh Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail will include the formal transfer of Crown lands along the Trail to the GNWT, designation of the park in the *Territorial Parks Act and Regulations*, and the establishment of a new claimant corporation to develop, operate and manage the new park.

South Slave

Government of Canada – Parks Canada

East Arm of Great Slave Lake National Park Proposal

In October 2006 the Chief of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and the Minister of the Environment signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* that provides a framework for working together over the next three years. During this time, Parks Canada will carry out a feasibility assessment for the establishment of a national park in the vicinity of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake/Artillery Lake. The area to be studied is approximately 33,500 km^2 including the 7,340 km^2 of lands already withdrawn for national park purposes in 1970.

The feasibility assessment will include the gathering of further information on the area's natural and cultural resources, a study of the potential economic and tourism impacts and benefits of a park, and an assessment of the mineral and energy resource potential of the study area.

Parks Canada has started the exchange of information with some individuals and businesses that have land holdings within and adjacent to the area. Broad public consultations, as part of the feasibility assessment, will likely begin early in 2008.

East Arm of Great Slave Lake Preliminary Area of Interest

Consultations with Aboriginal groups, such as the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, the Northwest Territory Metis Nation and, potentially, the Athabasca Denesoline, must be conducted in a manner that meets requirements established by the courts. This means that these potentially affected aboriginal groups have a very significant influence on whether a park is established and, if so, under what terms and in what configuration. It will likely take at least four years for all the required consultations and negotiations to be completed with these groups.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Overview

The Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (NWT PAS) was created to help NWT communities protect special areas of land for the long term. The NWT PAS envisions a future that safeguards special natural and cultural areas while keeping resource development options open.

The goals of the NWT PAS are to protect:

- special natural and cultural areas; and
- core representative areas within each NWT ecoregion.

The NWT PAS was developed by regional Aboriginal organizations, the federal and territorial governments, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry. Representatives from these organizations continue to oversee the PAS process through their participation on the NWT PAS Steering Committee.

Mackenzie Valley Five-Year Action Plan

The Mackenzie Valley Five-Year (2005-2010) Action Plan is part of the NWT PAS. The focus of the Action Plan is to work with communities to identify, review, establish interim protection, and evaluate a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley. The Action Plan was developed to identify and protect

areas in advance of, or concurrently with, the development of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

The Action Plan is now into its second year of implementation. By working to increase capacity in Mackenzie Valley communities, the Action Plan is supporting long-term conservation goals such as those identified in community conservation plans, land use plans, and interim measures and land claims agreements.

Key Area Updates

There are currently 20 areas identified by communities and regional organizations at various stages of the NWT PAS. The majority of these areas are located within the Mackenzie Valley.

Edehzhie (Horn Plateau)

This plateau located in the Mackenzie Valley is a cultural and spiritual gathering place for the Tłı̨cho and Dehcho First Nations. Edehzhie, the second area of interest to attain interim protection through the NWT PAS, is currently in the final stages of Step 5. This initiative is supported by both First Nations, and the Canadian Wildlife Service is sponsoring this area. Most assessments of the area have been completed and the Edehzhie Working Group expects to make its final recommendations on establishment, management and boundaries later in 2008.

Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake)

This area is an important cultural and spiritual place for the community of Trout Lake, as well as an area important for birds. In 2006, the Canadian Wildlife Service agreed to sponsor this area and is now in the beginning stages of Step 5. A multi-stakeholder Working Group has been established to guide and direct the evaluation of studies and consultations, as well as make recommendations on boundaries and management objectives. Most of this area is withdrawn from disposal through the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement.

Ts'ude'hliline-Tuyetah (Ramparts River/Wetlands)

This is a critical wetland area that has been an important hunting, trapping and fishing area for residents of Fort Good Hope for generations. Currently at Step 4 in the process, the Canadian Wildlife Service is sponsoring this area and has requested an interim land withdrawal from the federal government.

Edehzhie, Sambaa K'e, and several other areas in the early stages of the PAS process, including Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh, Buffalo Lake and Buffalo River and K'agee Tu, fall within the area covered by ongoing land, resource and governance negotiations involving the Dehcho First Nations and the governments of Canada and the NWT. The PAS process will be taken into account in these negotiations.

For more information on these and other PAS initiatives, or the PAS in general, visit **www.nwtpas.ca** or contact the PAS Secretariat at (867) 920-3179.

8 Steps of the NWT PAS

1. Identify priority area of interest.
2. Prepare protected area proposal and obtain regional support.
3. Submit proposal to sponsoring agency.
4. Apply for short-term (five year) protection.
5. Undertake detailed evaluation and assessment of the area.
6. Apply to sponsoring agency for permanent protection.
7. Approve and designate protected area.
8. Implement, monitor and review protected area.

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

Dehcho

Parks Canada Agency (PCA) continues to work on the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. Benefits of a larger park will include enhanced protection of its ecological integrity, better representation of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region of the National Parks System, and improved opportunities for visitors and the regional economic benefits that may flow from increased tourism.

The area of interest is the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem (GNE) as defined in the park management plan. The GNE includes the entire watershed of the South Nahanni River and the Nahanni North Karst. While most of this area lies within the Dehcho, the headwaters of the South Nahanni River are in the Sahtu Settlement Area.

Between 2004 and 2006, numerous research projects relating to natural conservation were undertaken. These included studies of grizzly bears, woodland caribou, Dall's sheep, bull trout, Karst landscape features, glaciers, and land cover mapping and classification. Geologists from Natural Resources Canada completed two years of fieldwork on a Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment, which is expected to be released in 2007. Information on all the research is available upon request.

Within the Dehcho, the Nahanni Expansion Working Group, created in 2004, continues to guide the implementation of the *Memorandum of Understanding* between PCA and the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) to expand the Park. This Working Group consists of two members appointed by DFN and two by PCA. Public consultations were carried out in several NWT communities in the summer of 2006. Preparations

Nahanni National Park Reserve and the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem

are now underway for a second phase of consultations with First Nations and Metis, local residents, stakeholders, government, industry and the general public with respect to boundary options for an expanded park. Once these public consultations are complete, the Working Group will consider all feedback and present its recommendations to DFN and PCA. Following this, DFN and the Government of Canada will negotiate a final boundary within the Dehcho as part of the Dehcho Process.

Sahtu

In the Sahtu Settlement Area, work to establish a national park got underway early in 2007. The 2007 Sahtu Draft Land Use Plan calls for the protection of these headwaters, which are also known as Begádeh. The Sahtu Final Agreement requires that an Impact and Benefit Plan be concluded, and these negotiations are expected to take two years. Parks Canada is working with the three Aboriginal land corporations that have jurisdiction in this area, and the Chief of the Tulita Dene Band has been invited to participate. The parties will have to ratify the Impact and Benefit Plan before a national park can be created by Parliament.

Yukon

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Aboriginal Leadership Development Program

The Aboriginal Leadership Development Program (ALDP) is a four-year leadership program developed by Parks Canada Agency (PCA) and delivered in partnership with Yukon College. The goal of the ALDP is to develop a cadre of Aboriginal leaders within PCA – a knowledgeable, skilled network of individuals in a variety of functions and levels in the organization. These individuals will serve as role models, enhancing and enriching Parks culture by integrating Aboriginal culture within all facets of park operations. The program's fundamental goal is full-time, long-term retention of Aboriginal leaders in PCA.

The ALDP provides a unique leadership developmental opportunity for over 40 PCA employees from across the country, with 13 new participants accepted each year. The program provides a holistic approach to training and development, respecting and incorporating Aboriginal culture. Core workshops for each of the four years include leadership, communications, conflict resolution and project management. Additional program elements include a field camp, traditional knowledge, storytelling, presentations on resource management issues, panel discussions, team building exercises and inspiring words from respected leaders. Two Elders are on site to provide knowledge, support and guidance. Participants are challenged mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The ALDP enables participants to develop their leadership potential and assist them in exploring career opportunities within the PCA.

Initiated in 2000, the ALDP continues to evolve and gain momentum, forging innovative leadership training for participants from across the country. During the 2006 ceremony of the fourth graduating class, it was announced that ALDP would receive permanent funding, giving hope to the dreams and aspirations of future graduates.

The Gift of the Drum

The undeniable powerful beat of the drum engages. It awakens the senses, eliciting a primordial response. It resonates and ignites a physical and emotional memory not unlike the experience of hearing a long forgotten favourite song that is reminiscent of a specific snapshot of time in your life. It is a trigger and you can't help but smile. The drum holds special significance. It represents the life force of the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program (ALDP).

As the graduates stood on the stage, participants, Elders and instructors were invited to step forward to contribute to the ceremony in what has now become traditional protocol. A hand crafted drum, painted with the ALDP eagle insignia and signed by all the 2006 graduates, was presented on behalf of the class. All participants, past, present and future are invited to play it – to sound out the traditional call to gather – enabling the exchange of stories, culture and traditions, creating passion and vision. The drum is a unifying force, which will continue to bring Parks employees, nations and communities from right across the country together in Whitehorse for years to come.

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Passing on of culture and traditions: Elder Chuck Hume paying respect at a grave site near the Dempster Highway.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – *Yukon Chapter*

Old Crow Flats Special Management Area

In August 2006, the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and Government of Yukon (YTG) announced the approval of the Management Plan for the Old Crow Flats Special Management Area (SMA). The plan provides full and permanent protection for nearly 4,000 km^2 of core wetlands.

The Old Crow Flats are located north of the village of Old Crow. This diverse lake network is home to major populations of waterfowl, muskrat, moose and other wildlife, and provides some of the winter range for the Porcupine Caribou herd. The area is of major cultural and economic importance to the VGFN and is one of the most important wetland complexes in Canada. It is the only Yukon wetland to be designated, by the United Nations through the Ramsar Convention, as having international ecological significance.

Establishment of the Old Crow Flats SMA was provided for in 1993 by the *VGFN Final Agreement* to protect the ecological integrity and traditional use of the area. The *Agreement* also provided for Vuntut National Park of Canada, which was established in 1995. The park, covering an area of 4,345 km^2, is part of the overall SMA and includes the northern one-third of the Old Crow Flats wetlands.

The *Final Agreement* also required VGFN and YTG to jointly prepare and approve a Management Plan for this SMA – specifically for the northern part of the Flats (within the national park), VGFN Settlement Lands (the bulk of the core wetlands – 3,948 km^2), and areas east and west of Crow Flats (YTG land – 3,775 km^2). The planning process took place over the past year and included public consultations in Old Crow and Whitehorse. One of the management principles was to "...strive to maintain the integrity of the SMA as one ecological unit". Elsewhere in the SMA, the YTG agreed to withdraw lands that bracket the wetlands from industrial development for a period of 20 years. The plan is to be reviewed in 2011 and every 10 years thereafter.

The two governments also acknowledged the long-standing contribution of previous and present Vuntut Gwitchin Elders and leaders who, with the Yukon and federal governments, provided the framework for the implementation of this SMA in the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory.

Of the 12,099 km^2 in the Old Crow Flats SMA 8,324 km^2, or 70%, is permanently protected, including the entire core wetland area. The remaining 3,375 km^2 (YTG lands) is interim protected until 2026. This network of protected areas total approximately 22,508 km^2 and stretches from the Beaufort Sea

(Herschel Island Territorial Park), through to Old Crow Flats including Ivvavik and Vuntut National Parks of Canada.

The total amount of permanent or interim protected lands in the Yukon is approximately 13.4%, or 64,600 km^2, excluding the interim Special Conservation Lands on the North Slope, negotiated through the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. Of the total conservation land in the Yukon, approximately 11.3% is now closed to industrial development.

For further information and images of Old Crow Flats, please refer to the CPAWS-Yukon website ***www.cpawsyukon.org***. Go to "Our Conservation Work/New Protected Areas"; click on the "Yukon Wild" icon; and then on "Old Crow Flats Ecoregion". (Also see article on page 13.)

Government of Yukon – Department of the Environment

Yukon Parks

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Bonnet Plume River

The Bonnet Plume River was designated a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) in 1998 as a direct result of the *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement*. As part of the designation process, a management plan was developed which identifies a wide variety of initiatives necessary to ensure that the river's natural, cultural and recreational values remain intact. The majority of the initiatives undertaken have been related to fish, wildlife and habitat within the river corridor and the adjacent watershed. A recreational monitoring program was also considered a high priority however no action was taken prior to 2006.

During the summer of 2006 a monitoring program was implemented for the Bonnet Plume based on the BC Parks Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring system. Baseline data, gathered at 20 informal campsites between Bonnet Plume Lake and Taco Bar on the Peel River, included measuring recreational impacts of past use. This data will assist future systematic measurements in determining whether or not a site, or the river itself, is being impacted by river travelers. If necessary, future mitigative measures could be taken based on a scientific approach.

Due to the remoteness and the relatively low recreational use that this river receives, a follow up assessment will likely not be necessary for another five to ten years. Information gathered in the 2006 assessment will be used in the preparation of the formal ten-year monitoring report, detailing the current state of the river and assessing the effectiveness of the management plan. This report is due in 2008 as a requirement under the CHR program.

Tatshenshini River

Nominated in June 1998 as one of the requirements under the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement*, the Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River was designated a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) in September 2004. An onsite dedication ceremony was held in July 2005 to commemorate the national and territorial significance of the Tatshenshini River while recognizing its outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values.

Located in one of the wildest areas in the world, the Tatshenshini is known for its wilderness, wildlife and salmon, and provides significant wilderness recreational opportunities amongst spectacular scenic mountains. The management area includes the upstream Yukon portion of the watershed and is approximately 1,400 km^2 in size. Establishment of the Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River as a CHR complements the existing network of protected areas consisting of Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada, Tatshenshini-Alsek Park of BC, and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Wrangell-St.Elias National Park, both of the US Park Service, that together form the adjacent UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Implementation of the Tatshenshini River management strategy has begun, with emphasis on establishing a river monitoring program to ensure that the recreational, cultural and natural values remain intact. A monitoring system was implemented during the summer of 2006. The system is based on the BC Parks Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) system, and provides the necessary baseline data for making future management decisions related to the level of recreational use on the river. Implementation of BRIM on the upper portion of the Tatshenshini completes a system which is now in place for the entire river.

The designation of the Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini as a CHR does not affect existing legislation, regulations or policies related to land or resource uses. Existing and proposed uses of the watershed will continue to be permitted within these existing legislative frameworks. The Government of Yukon, Parks Canada, BC Parks and the US National Park Service continue to jointly manage the Tatshenshini/Alsek river drainage in accordance with their own mandates and respective areas of responsibility. Special attention is devoted to the allocation and scheduling of commercial and recreation trips as selected by river managers from the five jurisdictions/agencies.

Yukon River-Thirty Mile Section

The Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1991. This portion of the Yukon River receives over 2,000 river travelers each year. To meet the basic needs of

river travelers, three campsites were constructed along the river in the 1990s, with upgrades to the existing campsite at Hootalinqua.

During the summer of 2006 a monitoring program was implemented for the Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River in the same fashion as the BC Parks Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring system used for the Bonnet Plume and Tatshenshini Rivers. One day-use site and four campgrounds were sampled during this period and will be reassessed in approximately three operating seasons due to the relatively high use that this river receives.

Parks

Ni'iinlii' Njik (Fishing Branch) Protected Areas

The Fishing Branch River and its tributaries, located in the North Ogilvie Mountains upstream of Old Crow, form the basis of this protected area. The area is made up of four units – a parcel of Vuntut Gwitchin Settlement Land (141 km^2), two territorial parks including an Ecological Reserve (169 km^2)and Wilderness Preserve (5,213 km^2), and a territorial Habitat Protection Area (978 km^2). In accordance with the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, the areas are managed as an ecological unit to protect the Fishing Branch.

The area is also an important grizzly bear habitat and the Bear Cave Mountain area is famous for its bear viewing opportunities. Plans were developed that allowed for viewing opportunities while protecting the bears from over exposure to people. Construction of a viewing facility – including a ranger/cook cabin, two "sleeping" cabins, an outhouse, and an additional outbuilding with some decking – has completed all infrastructure developments.

The risk management plan for bears and a potential commercial bear viewing program were completed during 2006 as required under the management plan. 2006 also marked the beginning of a three-year pilot-project that will test the prospects of commercial wildlife viewing tours relating to grizzly bears.

A joint management plan for the larger Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area surrounding the settlement lands, and Ecological Reserve was approved in 2004. No further development is identified for these remote areas.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Tombstone is designated a Natural Environment Park in accordance with the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (THFA)*.

Located along the Dempster Highway where arctic tundra and boreal forest meet the Pacific Arctic Divide, this park is approximately 2,100 km^2 in size. The diverse landscape supports a rich natural and cultural history and spectacular scenery, making it a popular destination for hikers and other travelers in the Yukon.

A management plan was recommended to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments in January 2003 and is awaiting approval by the respective governments. In the interim, a variety of initiatives are underway to fulfill the *Final Agreement* obligations, including wildlife and trail impact monitoring programs, and detailed planning for the development of a visitor information centre.

During the 2006 operating season, a three-way formal agreement was reached between Holland America, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon. Some of the key points in the agreement include:

- hiring eight to ten seasonal interpreters,
- creating an educational scholarship,
- establishing a three party program management committee,
- hiring a seasonal Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in program monitor,
- developing an interpretive program, and
- construction of the interpretive centre.

2006 was the second year that Holland America has run bus tours to Tombstone Park.

Until the management plan is approved, the park will be managed in accordance with the principles and objectives identified in the *THFA* that pertain to Tombstone.

Special Management Areas

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements provide for the establishment of Special Management Areas that are not parks. In general, these areas are established for conservation, habitat protection, traditional First Nation use and public use.

Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area

Ddhaw Ghro is the Northern Tutchone name for the area formerly known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary. Ddhaw Ghro is dominated by Grey Hunter Peak and the surrounding hillsides which support a population of Fannin sheep, a unique colour variation of Dall's sheep. Important mineral licks and hot springs are included in the protected area.

Ddhaw Gro has been identified as a Special Management Area under the Agreements of the Selkirk and Nacho Nyak Dun First Nations. A Steering Committee, comprised of members nominated by these two First Nations and the Government of Yukon (YTG), has prepared a management plan for Ddhaw Ghro which was released for public review in June 2006.

It is expected that the Steering Committee will recommend the plan to the YTG and the First Nations of Nacho Nyak Dun, Selkirk and Little Salmon/Carmacks for their approval in 2007. Upon approval of the

management plan Ddhaw Ghro will be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Devil's Elbow / Big Island Habitat Protection Area

Devil's Elbow and Big Island, two small areas along the Stewart River, were identified using traditional and local knowledge as important moose calving areas. This area is also good habitat for waterfowl, fish and a variety of other wildlife. The Mayo District Renewable Resources Council (MDRRC) proposed the area to the Department of the Environment for consideration as a Habitat Protection Area (HPA). A working group, made up of representatives from the MDRRC, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon, is preparing a management plan. The completed plan and consideration of the designation as an HPA will be undertaken in 2007.

Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area

Horseshoe Slough is an important waterfowl breeding and staging area in the traditional territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun in the central Yukon. The area is comprised of Horseshoe Slough, an old oxbow of the Stewart River, and the lower portion of Nogold Creek including numerous shallow ponds within its valley.

Horseshoe Slough was identified for its wildlife and cultural values within the Special Management Area chapter of the *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement*. A management plan for Horseshoe Slough was prepared by the Mayo District Renewable Resources Council, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon. The plan was approved by the Yukon Environment Minister in 2001 and the area was designated as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. A five-year review of the plan is currently underway and should be completed in 2007.

Lutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area

Lutsaw Wetlands (formerly Von Wilczek Lakes) is an important wetland complex for shorebirds, duck staging, nesting and moulting along the North Klondike Highway, south of Pelly Crossing. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*.

A Steering Committee of members nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon, has prepared a management plan for Lutsaw Wetlands. The management plan was approved by the parties in a signing ceremony in the area in August 2006 and will be reviewed in five years. The Lutsaw Wetlands is scheduled to be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Nordenskiold Wetland Habitat Protection Area (Tsalnjik Chu)

The Nordenskiold River valley south of Carmacks is a major wetland complex and an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Final Agreement*.

A Steering Committee of members nominated by the Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation and the Government of Yukon, has prepared a draft management plan which is currently under review by the parties. Approval of the plan and designation as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act* is targeted for 2007.

Old Crow Flats Special Management Area

Old Crow Flats is the Yukon's largest wetland complex and is an internationally recognized RAMSAR site. Located on the Old Crow River system north of the Arctic Circle, the Flats contain more than 2,000 ponds and marshes ranging in size from 0.5 hectare to 4,700 hectares. The area is an important breeding and moulting ground for 500,000 water birds. Waterfowl, muskrats and other wildlife of the Flats are of great importance to the Vuntut Gwitchin.

Under the terms of the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, a Special Management Area (SMA) was created which includes the southern portion of the Vuntut National Park of Canada, settlement land, and portions of Crown land. Old Crow Flats SMA will be managed to maintain the integrity of the area as one ecological unit, using the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitats, and the continuation of traditional use by Vuntut Gwitchin as guiding principles.

A management plan specific to Vuntut National Park was completed in 2004 and a management plan was developed for the remaining lands in the Old Crow Flats SMA in 2005/06. The Vuntut Gwitchin will develop a conservation designation for the settlement land portion, while the Crown land will be designated as a Habitat Protection Area. This plan was approved in a signing ceremony in August 2006. (Also see article on page 10.)

Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area

Pickhandle Lakes is an important wetland complex for waterfowl staging, nesting and moulting. The area was identified under the *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* as a Special Management Area. It is also listed under the not yet ratified White River First Nation Final Agreement. Management planning will commence in the area by 2009 or upon approval of the White River Final Agreement, which ever happens first. It will then be designated as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites

1. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
2. Canyon City
3. Fort Selkirk
4. Fort Smith Mission
5. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
6. Gwich'in
7. Herschel Island
8. Hidden Lake
9. Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga
10. Katannilik
11. Kekerten
12. Kugluk
13. Lansing Post
14. Mabel McIntyre House
15. Mallikjuaq
16. Ni'iinlii' Njik – Fishing Branch
17. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson City)
18. Ovayok
19. Qaummaarviit
20. Rampart House
21. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
22. Shäwshe
23. Sylvia Grinnell
24. Tombstone
25. Twin Falls Gorge

◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)

26. Arvia'juaq NHS
27. Aulavik NP
28. Auyuittuq NP
29. Dèline Fishery and Fort Franklin NHS
30. Ehdaa NHS
31. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
32. Ivvavik NP
33. Kitigaryuit NHS
34. Kluane NP
35. Kluane NPR
36. Nagwichoonjik NHS
37. Nahanni NPR
38. Pingo Canadian Landmark
39. Quttinirpaaq NP
40. Sahyoue/Edacho NHS
41. Sirmilik NP
42. Torngat Mountains NPR
43. Tr'ochëk NHS
44. Tuktut Nogait NP
45. Ukkusiksalik NP
46. Vuntut NP
47. Wapusk NP
48. Wood Buffalo NP

⁂ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)

49. Igaliqtuuq NWA (proposed)
50. Nirjutiqavvik NWA
51. Polar Bear Pass NWA
52. Qaqulluit and Akpait NWA (proposed)
53. Queen Maud Gulf MBS

✱ Areas Under Study

54. East Arm of Great Slave Lake (area of interest)
55. Foxe Basin Islands
56. Mills Lake/Edehzhie
57. Nahanni National Park Reserve (expansion area)
58. Rasmussen Lowlands
59. Wolf Lake

✚ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals

60. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
61. Northern Bathurst Island
62. Tuktut Nogait
63. Utkuhiksalik

★ Heritage Rivers

64. Alsek
65. Arctic Red River
66. Bonnet Plume
67. Kazan
68. Soper
69. South Nahanni
70. Tatshenshini
71. Thelon
72. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals

73. Alijivik (Ruin Point)
74. Asi Keyi
75. Beechey Island
76. Kusawa Lake
77. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition

▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers

78. Coppermine
79. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

❏ Other Conservation Areas

80. Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area
81. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
82. L'hutsaw Wetlands Habitat Protection Area
83. Nordenskiold River Habitat Protection Area
84. Old Crow Special Management Area
85. Pickhandle Lakes Habitat Protection Area
86. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
87. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Legend

- ■ Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
- Proposed Parks
- Study Area
- ■ Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- ◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- ⁂ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
- ✱ Areas Under Study
- ✚ National Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ★ Heritage Rivers
- ▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
- ❏ Other Conservation Areas

Grise Fiord • ⁂50 ✚61 ⁂51 ▼75 Resolute • ◆41 ◆41 • Pond Inlet • Arctic Bay ◆41 • Clyde River ⁂49 ⁂52 • Qikiqtarjuaq ◆28 • Pangnirtung ■11 • Igloolik • Hall Beach ✱55 • Ulukhaktok • Sachs Harbour ◆27 32◆ ■7 ◆46 20■ Old Crow ❏84 33◆ • Tuktoyaktuk 38◆ • Inuvik ■6 16■ ■5 ■17 ■24 Dawson • ◆43 ■21 ★65 ★66 Paulatuk • ◆44 ✚62 • Tsiigehtchic ◆36 • Fort Good Hope Cambridge Bay • ■18 Gjoa Haven • ▼77 ✱58 12■ • Kugluktuk ▲78 ★53 ✚63 • Repulse Bay ■15 • Cape Dorset 23■ • Iqaluit 19■ 68★ 10■ • Kimmirut ◆45 42◆ 73▼ • Coral Harbour ■87 ★71 • Baker Lake ◆31 • Chesterfield Inlet Rankin Inlet ■9 ⁂54 60✚ • Łutselk'e ★67 26◆ • Arviat ◆47 ❏80 81❏■13 ❏85 ■3 ▼74 ❏82 34 ❏86 ■14 ◆35 22 ❏83 Haines Junction • ★72 • Whitehorse ▼ ■2 64 70 76 ▲79 ✱57 ★69 ◆37 Nahanni Butte • ✱56 Edzo • • Rae Fort Simpson Yellowknife • ◆30 ✱59 Norman Wells • ■1 Tulita • 29 ◆Déline ◆40 ◆40 • Fort Liard • Fort Resolution Hay River • 25■ 4■ Fort Smith ◆48

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Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area

Ta'tla Mun (formerly Tatlmain Lake) is an important food fish lake southeast of Pelly Crossing in the traditional territory of the Selkirk First Nation. It also has a reputation as a high quality fly-in sport fishing lake. Ta'tla Mun was identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*. A Steering Committee of members nominated by the Yukon and Selkirk governments, developed a management plan for Ta'tla Mun with public involvement. The plan was approved by the parties in 2002.

© Government of Yukon, 2006

Chief Darren Taylor and Minister Brad Cathers at Management Plan Signing Ceremony.

Tourism and Culture

Historic Sites Unit

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site Management Plan was jointly developed by the Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as a requirement of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim agreement. In June 2006 the historic Forty Mile town site was the site of a large celebration marking the signing of the management plan. Approximately 70 people boated, or drove and hiked, to the site, where they were entertained by Hän singers and local musicians, and heard speeches from Elders, church representatives and other dignitaries. A picnic lunch, provided by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, was served in the recently completed campground kitchen shelter.

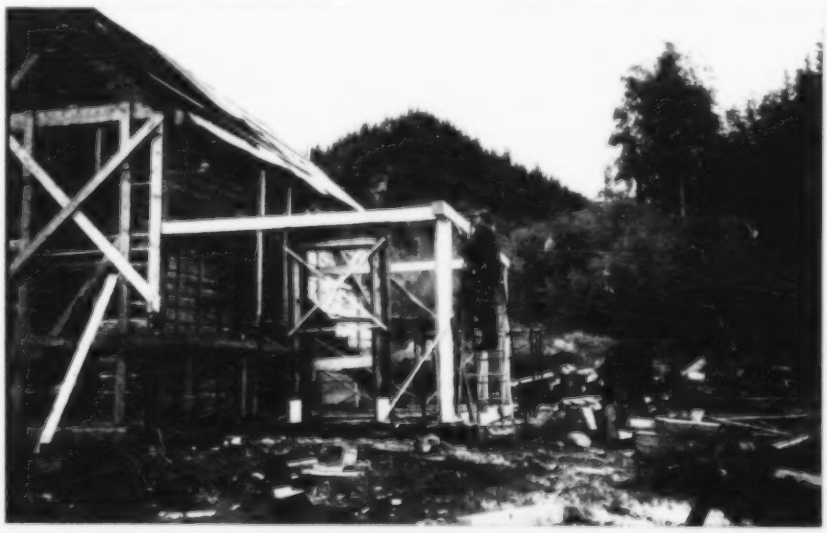
In 2006 physical work at the site was focused on the stabilization of St. James Anglican Church, the North-West Mounted Police barracks, the Roadhouse, Telegraph Office and an Alaska Commercial Company cabin, in addition to the completion of the campground kitchen shelter.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Tr'ondek Hwech'in and the Government of Yukon under terms of the First Nation's Final Land Claim Agreement.

Rampart House

Restoration of the historic Cadzow House and Store continued in 2006. A crew of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation residents from Old Crow lowered the two storey hewn log house onto its new foundation sills and the kitchen addition walls were re-assembled and restored. The crew also assisted with the restoration and re-assembling of shelving and counters in the store.

Graphic design standards and guidelines were also developed for the site. These will be used for all future signage and other interpretive materials produced for the site.



© Government of Yukon, 2006

Crew working to restore Cadzow House kitchen.

Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Government of Yukon under terms of the First Nation's Final Land Claim Agreement.

Yukon Historic Sites Inventory

Research and development of a storyline for the first phase in the production of a film entitled *Grand Forks, The Lost City of the Klondike* was carried out in 2006. Grand Forks was the major community in the Klondike goldfields at the turn of the 20th century. Virtually no evidence remains of the town after a century of dredging and mining at the site. Research included a compilation and inventory of an extensive collection of period photos and documents related to the town, as well as on site interviews of Klondike placer miners who have worked in the region.

Another inventory project was the survey and recording of the placer gold mining area around Livingstone Creek. The historic town of Livingstone Creek was the primary community in the Livingstone mining district located in central Yukon, due east of Lake Laberge, near the south arm of the Big Salmon River. Cabins and artifacts remaining in Livingstone Creek, and on the surrounding creeks, provide evidence of historic mining activities dating back a century.

The Yukon Historic Sites Inventory is accessible online to researchers who contact the Historic Sites Registrar at: *hpi.registrar@gov.yk.ca*

Historic Places Initiative

Yukon continues to participate in the national Historic Places Initiative (HPI), along with all provinces and territories, and the federal government. The objective of the HPI is to "improve the state of conservation in Canada and increase Canadians' access to and understanding of their heritage by actively engaging them in its preservation". Further information about the HPI can be found at ***www.historicplaces.ca***.

HPI funds also assisted in technical upgrades to the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory (YHSI) database and the Yukon Register of Historic Places. The Register is designed to provide the public information about every formally recognized historic site in Yukon. See ***www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca***.

Efforts have been made toward increasing the quantity of sites listed and data available in the YHSI, improving the quality of information, and ensuring the YHSI contains a representative collection of sites covering all regions of the territory. In 2006 several projects were undertaken to add information to the database. This broadening of the knowledge base will enable a better and more comprehensive understanding of the range of heritage values found in Yukon, and a more rational evaluation of the relative significance of sites.

Moosehide Archaeology Project

In 2006, an archaeological survey was conducted at the historic townsite of Moosehide. This reserve, on the Yukon River just a few kilometers downstream from Dawson City, was created for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in when they were relocated during the Klondike Gold Rush. Archaeological evidence indicates that the site was used and occupied over 8,000 years ago. In the first part of the 20th century there were restrictions placed on people from the reserve entering Dawson City. In the 1950s, people started moving into the north end of Dawson City to find work and the town site was totally abandoned soon after its school closed in 1957.

Today Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in members are building residences and re-occupying the site, at least on a seasonal basis. The site is used for a large biennial event called the Moosehide Gathering, where people from across Yukon and Alaska come to share in traditional activities. The archaeological survey of the site was carried out to ensure that new construction and development activity do not harm potential heritage resources. The survey was a joint effort by the Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondek Hwech'in.

© Government of Yukon, 2006

Large steam boiler on Livingstone Creek Syndicate placer claim.

Northern Yukon Caribou Fence Study

The existence of ancient, northern Yukon caribou fences has long been known by the people of Old Crow but did not become the object of scientific study until 1975. As part of the initial research, the complexes were mapped and the structural components of fences (the trap, or pocket, and drift fences) were documented, along with associated features such as caches and drying racks. As well, archaeological excavations, dendrochronological studies and zooarchaeological analysis of remains of fence complexes were undertaken. Vuntut Gwitchin Elders were interviewed and archival research was carried out in Alaska and Toronto to collect ethnographic and ethnohistorical information, and to research communal hunting systems.

All of this documentation was assembled in 2006 to produce a comprehensive monograph on interception and surround strategies of caribou hunting in northern Yukon. This was a joint project of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Yukon Historic Sites and Heritage Resources Units, and the University of Alberta.

Original Fort Selkirk Hudson's Bay Company post

The original Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) post, called Fort Selkirk, was constructed in 1848 and was the first Euro-Canadian outpost in Yukon's central interior. It was established on the east shore of the Pelly River where it enters the Yukon River. The post was moved across the Yukon River to the present site of Fort Selkirk in 1851 because of annual spring flooding.

Evidence of the original site was thought to have been lost due to flooding and erosion. What appeared to be a cellar depression was located in 1988 but was not further investigated until 2006. The 2006 dig included Selkirk First Nation youths and other students. Building foundations and artifacts will provide information about the interaction between the Northern Tutchone people and the Hudson's Bay Company over 150 years ago.

The project will continue in 2007 and is a joint effort between the Government of Yukon and the Selkirk First Nation.

Teslin River Survey

A co-ordinated survey of historic resources was carried out along the Teslin River in July 2006. Representatives and Elders from the Teslin Tlingit, Ta'an Kwach'an and Kwanlin Dun First Nations were boated down the river, from near its beginning at Johnsons Crossing to where it enters the Yukon River at Hootalinqua, for a distance of over 150 km. Along this stretch, sites were recorded and oral histories were gathered.

The Teslin River flows though part of each of the three First Nations' traditional territories. The survey updated and upgraded the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory information about the area.

Government of Yukon, 2006

Archaeologists excavate the original Fort Selkirk.

Government of Yukon, 2006

Cabin at Mason Landing on Teslin River.

Nunavut

Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

At the request of the Kugluktuk Community Beneficiaries Committee (CBC), Parks Canada Agency (PCA) organized a public meeting in Kugluktuk in November 2004. At the conclusion of this meeting, the CBC members indicated that they would consider what they learned from the meeting and would provide further advice to PCA.

To date, PCA has not heard back from the Committee, and there has been no progress on this proposal since. PCA still intends to work with the community on a tourism potential study for the Bluenose Lake area. Scheduling for that study will be worked out in consultation with the Kugluktuk CBC, the Hamlet Council and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations.

Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada

For two weeks in August 2006, a boat survey to re-locate and record sites was conducted in the park. As the second year of a three-year project, the objective was to record selected sites in the main body of Wager Bay from Bennett Bay to the Paliak Islands. Work in the first year concentrated on Ford and Brown lakes at the western end of Wager Bay.

The August 2006 work was constrained by frequent polar bear sightings and encounters and by tides which curtailed boat travel through shallow waters.

About 20 sites were recorded and photographed in some detail. The sites are located at the Reversing Falls, Bennett Bay, Tinittuktuq Flats, Douglas Harbour and the Aiqqujat Islands.

On Tinittuktuq Flats are two sites with Thule semi-subterranean houses constructed with sod, rocks and bowhead whalebone. An interesting feature of these dwellings at one site is that there are two clusters of conjoined houses sharing a common entrance passage. A short distance away and at the same elevation on a rocky ridge are several Thule tent rings including a very large communal structure or *kaggivik*.

Most of the sites recorded had a number of features made with rocks: tent rings, *qammait*, *igavit*, *caches*, traps for foxes, wolves or wolverines, and qayaq rests. Artifacts such as snow goggles, an ulu handle, metal traps, and glass, wood and metal fragments were observed on several sites. One bone artifact was collected from a pond at a site in Bennett Bay to preserve it.

Sirmilik National Park of Canada

At the eastern end of Bylot Island sits the well-known site of Qaiqsut, also known as Qaersut. In 1927, Therkel Mathiassen of the Danish Fifth Thule Expedition described the site as an important location for summer narwhal hunting. Many archaeological features are scattered over the peninsula and five localities have been defined. The first is a recent grave (1947). The second is the Thule occupation, which consists of semi-subterranean winter houses and possible *qammait* as described by Mathiassen on the eastern side of the peninsula. On the western side of the peninsula are a number of graves, remains of the whaling industry and 20th century tent rings on the flats.

Because a section of the area is actively eroding and an increase in visitation to Qiaqsut is anticipated, the features on the peninsula were mapped using an automatic level and stadia rod. Each feature was also photographed and described.

The Thule site contains ten large sod, rock and whalebone dwellings on two levels. On the lower level, a few meters above the high tide mark on an eroding bank are two dwellings that Mathiassen may have referred to as qammait. Metal and ironstone pottery were found in association with one of these houses. Several large bowhead whalebones, some bearing metal cut marks, are

© Parks Canada, 2006

Seal blubber cache with rock slab lid on Tinittuktuq Flats.

Parks Canada, 2006

A Thule house with curved entrance passage facing the beach.

on the lower slope and in a bone concentration is a qamutik fragment made of whalebone. In another house at the lower level, a slim roll of birchbark was observed. Seven stakes were inserted into the eroding slope to monitor the rate of erosion.

A cemetery with about 16 grave cairns lies on a ridge to the east of the Thule site.

Remains of the whaling industry are found lower on the beach in the form of a large metal container for whale oil and a try pot buried in beach cobbles.

The final component on the flats above the high tide mark consists of tent rings, caches and artifacts of families who camped there in the mid 20th century.

Environment Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service

East Bay and Harry Gibbons Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Coastal habitats and lowlands support some of the highest terrestrial biodiversity in the Canadian Arctic. Knowledge of the distribution, abundance and diversity of habitats in Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS) Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) across the Arctic is necessary to ensure that wildlife resources are adequately protected for local communities, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts.

In Nunavut, five MBS have been created to protect important habitats for the breeding Lesser Snow Goose. CWS defines a key habitat site as an area that supports at least one percent of the national population of any migratory bird species, or subspecies, at any given time. These five MBS protect the breeding grounds of more than 75% of the eastern and central Arctic populations of the Lesser Snow Goose. These sites also protect more than one percent of the national population of other migratory bird species, including the Atlantic Brant, Ross's Goose, Sabine's Gull and the Common Eider. Habitat classification and assessment has been completed in the Queen Maud Gulf MBS and is currently in progress for the Dewey Soper and McConnell River MBS.

Land cover classification of East Bay and Harry Gibbons MBS on Southampton Island was recently completed. These two sanctuaries are important nesting areas for geese and other migratory birds, including shorebirds and waterbirds, as well as other wildlife.

A variety of digital image tools, combined with ground-truthing data, were used to prepare a land cover map of Southampton Island. This project generated a baseline geo-referenced map of the current habitat conditions of the island, which will assist in the future management of the bird populations and in the design and implementation of effective wildlife surveys. Similar efforts are underway for other federal and territorial protected areas, which will yield important products for assessing changes to Arctic wildlife and habitats at a time of intense and rapid environmental change.

Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment

Nunavut Parks and Special Places

Legislation and Program Development

A process of redefining core tools will see the development of a new Nunavut Parks and Special Places Program, a revised *Territorial Parks Act and Regulations* that better responds to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* and the nature of parks in Nunavut, a review of the Territorial Parks System and Historic Sites Plans and, pending confirmation of funding, the establishment of joint planning and management committees in keeping with the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA).

Due to *NLCA* related obligations and IIBA negotiations, Department of Environment (DoE) continued to apply the former *NWT Territorial Parks Act* which was adopted from the NWT when Nunavut was established. The Parks and Special Places Division completed a review in 2006 of that *Act* as a means of forming a new Parks and Special Places program and legislation. "Best practices" from other jurisdictions (classifications, management and zoning systems, legislative gaps related to the *NLCA* and IIBA, and national and international

Katjaqnaaq / Listen to the Land

In April 2007 the Minister of Environment launched a new marketing and promotional initiative for Nunavut Parks and Special Places as part of its Heritage Appreciation Strategy. The launch brands Nunavut's Parks and Special Places around "Katjaqnaaq".

"Katjaqnaaq", as much a feeling as an expression, reveals a depth of emotion and connection to a place of incredible beauty and significance. Uttered as a sign, it can mean "ah – I am happy here, I am part of something." As a joyful exclamation, it can mean "oh, what a beautiful place!" However it is used, it evokes connectedness to one's surroundings and a sense of peace and meaning.

The goal of the program is to increase knowledge of, and provide educational and interpretation information about the cultural and natural history of Nunavut's Territorial Parks and Special Places; promote the parks and special places for active, healthy lifestyles; and increase public education, enjoyment and recreation. It will highlight and market these areas to territorial, national, and international visitors and strengthen parks-based tourism opportunities, especially in local communities. The redevelopment and redesign of ***www.nunavutparks.ca*** will better reflect the Parks and Special Places' expanded mandate. Development of new brochures, display systems and editorials for each park and special place will heighten awareness and promote territorial parks and related opportunities in communities.

The new program is intended to place Nunavut's territorial parks and special places within their larger context as: places that provide sustenance, places of historical significance, places where berries can be collected, places where families have camped each summer for generations, and places where Nunavut's incredible landscapes and culture can be experienced. These places are important to Nunavummiut– places to "listen to" and learn from as a new Parks and Special Places Program is built.

"To understand them, we must experience them. We must listen to these special places. We must listen to the land".

commitments) were all considered. DoE will continue with the development of a Nunavut Parks and Special Places program as a means of raising awareness of territorial parks and gathering community and territorial input toward the development of a new Territorial Parks Act for Nunavut.

Building a Knowledge Base: Nunavut Parks Geospatial Information

Over the past two years, Nunavut Parks and Special Places has been working toward a comprehensive database of all geospatial and related metadata and its Geographic Information System. Significant investments have been made in the collection and analysis of wide ranging geospatial information and geo-referenced data, including ecological data, bio-physical and physical inventories, typonomy, land surveys, land classifications and base mapping data.

In 2006, Nunavut Parks and Special Places was successful in partnering with other federal, provincial and territorial governments resulting in a five year project for the acquisition of new Medium Resolution Satellite Imagery which will continue to improve base mapping for territorial parks and Nunavut.

Once completed, the new imagery will significantly upgrade and improve the accuracy of existing topographic maps of Nunavut; improve navigational aids in Search and Rescue and general safety on the land; and improve habitat mapping, land use planning, environmental assessment, and park planning and management. These types of partnerships will build Nunavut's geomatic resources.

An Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks

The 1993 *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* changed the role of government in the protection of the environment for Nunavut. The *Agreement* recognizes the value of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut, including meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas.

As part of the *NLCA* obligations, the Government of Nunavut (Department of Environment), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and each of the three Regional Inuit Associations negotiated an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for territorial parks. The IIBA establishes a process toward the joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks, provides for Inuit contracting and business opportunities, and includes the development of interpretive programs, park resource inventories, Inuit tourism opportunities and other benefits associated with parks. The establishment of co-management structures is instrumental in the development of the Nunavut Parks program.

Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and Related Projects

In 2001, the then Minister of Sustainable Development initiated community attraction development projects as a means of enhancing

Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

Clyde River feasibility study area.

tourism and related economic development. These projects have seen design and fabrication of interpretive signs in Hall Beach related to the Fox Main Dew Line site, a parks and attraction development study in Kugaaruk, and preliminary studies in Clyde River and Coral Harbour. Based on this earlier work, Department of Environment has continued to work with communities on park feasibility studies in these areas.

Clyde River

The area around Clyde River, on the east coast of Baffin Island, includes open-ocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife in the area includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, hare, arctic fox, and numerous species of birds. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, are important caribou hunting grounds today just as they were for the families that lived in the fiords years ago, as evidenced by the Thule and earlier archaeological sites.

Phase One of a feasibility study assessed the conservation value of the land, culture, heritage and wildlife, and investigated potential opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development. Phase Two, completed in 2006, focused on Ayr Lake, five fiords, hiking Revoir Pass, the Stewart Valley and other passes through the mountains connecting to the fiords.

Based on this work, the community recommended a park option that includes the fiords north of Clyde River because the area is one of the most scenic arctic fiord landscapes and is a culturally important area to Inuit as many local families once lived in the study area. The area has high potential for long term economic diversity and growth related to tourism and recreation, and has many economic and recreation opportunities for guides and outfitters in Clyde River. In addition to protecting important cultural and natural heritage, development of a territorial park will provide economic diversity, employment, education and training opportunities for the people of Clyde River.

The recommended boundary includes Inuit Owned Lands as well as marine areas, both of which would require additional discussions between the community, the Qivalliq Inuit Association (QIA) and territorial and federal partners, and may or may not necessarily be included in any potential territorial park.

Nunavut Parks and Special Places will continue to work with QIA toward park planning and establishment in keeping with the processes agreed to in the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement. This will include the establishment of a Community Joint Planning and Management Committee to prepare more detailed descriptions and assessments of the wildlife, vegetation, cultural, archaeological and mineral resources; Inuit place names and oral histories; as well as guiding consultations with other stakeholders. Only with a full understanding of all the important resources can appropriate boundaries be defined to maximize conservation, recreation and tourism without impacting other valid land uses.

Defining an Approach to Cultural Landscape Planning – Clyde River Case Study

In every corner of the world, landscapes have been shaped by the interactions of people and place over time. Nunavut is no different. Tent rings, kayak stands and fox traps dating back more than 4,000 years still exist today – in most cases, in a landscape that is largely untouched. Not only are these places evident, they are still used – their value uncompromised after many centuries.

In fact, these traditional land use patterns have proven sustainable over centuries. As living examples of the cultural heritage in Nunavut, Inuit can return to a family camp during the summer as they have done for generations. Landscapes are rich in value not in spite of, but because of the presence of people.

Conservation approaches in Nunavut need to sustain traditional connections to the land and engage people in stewardship of place. Culture is not simply tangible landscape elements and patterns, but the intangible environmental qualities and associations as well.

In the absence of models that can be applied to this approach, Nunavut Parks and residents of Clyde River are creating an approach that may be used to assess the value of specific sites and cultural landscapes across the territory. This will include the collection and identification of existing cultural heritage resource knowledge materials, the assessment and definition of gaps in these categories, and the recommendation of a comprehensive cultural heritage resource inventory. It is expected that the study will be completed in early 2007.

Fossil Creek - Coral Harbour

Nunavut Parks and Special Places has been working with the community of Coral Harbour to identify potential locations to preserve the natural and cultural history of areas on Southampton Island, and to identify potential economic development opportunities for the community through tourism. With community support the historic site of Alijivik was identified as the park option.

Alijivik is located on Inuit Owned Lands (IOL), which are managed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA), and as such requires agreements with the KIA, and between the Hamlet and the KIA, for the development of a territorial park on IOL. Until such agreements are in place, the Alijivik proposal cannot be advanced.

In consultation with the Hamlet, an interpretive trail program was developed at Fossil Creek, which is renowned for its high concentration of exposed fossils and could serve as a local attraction in support of a future territorial park. Research of the area included the natural history; fieldwork and an inventory of the natural features; and open houses to present the research and fieldwork findings, and to ask for community input on the direction of the signage program. Signage design is expected to be completed in early 2007, with fabrication and installation following later in the year. A new brochure and airport signage is included in the project.

Kugaaruk Territorial Park

Based on the recommendations of the 2001 parks and attractions development study, in 2005 the Department of Environment initiated a feasibility study for park development in Kugaaruk to protect and preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the area, and to enhance opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development.

Following a preliminary resource inventory, and community consultations and discussions with the Parks Steering Committee, the study area was expanded to take advantage of coastal areas, hiking and camping, physiography, wildlife, vegetation and cultural heritage.

Five areas were identified for potential park opportunities and further fieldwork and community consultations are now necessary to select a primary site and complete the park master planning and development. Funding availability

Alijivik limestone cache.

© Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2006

and access to lands, which have largely been claimed for prospecting or mineral development, will determine timelines and schedules for further park planning and establishment.

Northwest Passage Trail

In 1993/94, Northwest Passage Territorial Park was developed in order to showcase the search for the Northwest Passage and to increase the tourism potential of Gjoa Haven. Northwest Passage Trail is a self-guided interpretive trail with six stops at points of historical interest throughout the community. The trail tells the story of the many failed expeditions and the one successful attempt of Roald Amundsen through the Northwest Passage. In addition to the trail, the Hamlet office displays artifacts that describe Amundsen's exploration and time in the community. In 2003, a monument was erected within the community to commemorate the centenary of Amundsen's arrival to Gjoa Haven. A Visitor/Heritage Center within the community is currently undergoing renovation and will be used in the future to showcase photographs and artifacts pertaining to the Northwest Passage.

A review and upgrade of the interpretive signage and trail in Gjoa Haven was initiated in 2005/06 to better develop tourism opportunities for the community. This included new research and consultation with the community on the history of the Northwest Passage to give structure and direction to the development of a new interpretive program. Trail inventory and assessment, and redesign and development of new signage, including messaging at the Amundsen cairn in Gjoa Haven were also given consideration. Signage fabrication is expected to be completed in early 2007 for installation later in the year. A new brochure and airport signage is included in the project.

Existing Territorial Parks

Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about eight kilometres northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga ("*the land around the river of little fishes*") Territorial Park. In summer and fall, visitors and residents enjoy the river's spectacular scenery, fishing, swimming, berry picking and viewing the park's abundant wildlife, including the peregrine falcon. The park's most outstanding feature is the historic site Qamaviniqtalik ("*place of ancient sod houses*") and its interpretive walking trail located on the flood plains of the Meliadine River. The numerous archaeological features at Qamaviniqtalik are representative of the transition from the Thule culture to the historic Caribou Inuit culture.

Park development has been ongoing since the summer of 2003 and there are now three picnic areas, a small camping area with tent pads, and a newly renovated cabin with a wood stove. Visitation to the park has been steadily increasing since 2003 and the park is used by the community as a staging area for activities during cruise ship visits and for other special events in the community. A park brochure and guidebook were completed in 2005 and interpretive signage will be installed in the summer of 2007. Future plans include the development of hiking/interpretive trails.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("*the place of waterfalls*"), in south Baffin near Kimmirut, is an area of approximately 1,270 km^2, almost all of it in the Soper River watershed – a Canadian Heritage River. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog sledding and snowmobiling.

The community, with assistance from park staff, organizes cultural events for park and cruise ship visitors. Summer visitor use alone has increased the economic impacts in Kimmirut for arts and crafts, home-stay programs, and community events. The Soper House, the home of the 1930s explorer and

Katannilik Territorial Park.

biologist Dewey Soper, now serves as the Soper House Gallery where soapstone carvings, jewelry made from local stone, and handicrafts can be purchased.

Katannilik Park staff continue to host annual summer science camps in the park where local students learn about wildlife and plant ecology, traditional use of rocks and minerals, navigation using rocks/stars, and safe boating skills on a river.

As a result of the increased tourism to the park, Department of Environment has completed construction at Taqaiqsirvik campground in Kimmirut, and an emergency shelter and a boathouse at Soper Falls, all to aide Katannilik Park staff in monitoring activities within the park.

Kekerten Territorial Park

Kekerten Territorial Park is located 50 km from Pangnirtung within Cumberland Sound. As a highly used Scottish Whaling Station during the 1850s and 1860s, a number of artifacts remain behind, including the 1857 foundations of three storehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and rings.

The Government of Nunavut and the community of Pangnirtung have been working together on a restoration project for Kekerten. The development of the Scottish Whaling Station will support local outfitters providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site to include the relationship of Inuit with the whalers. A three-dimensional skeletal structure ghosting the whaling station with removable fabric interpretive panels, and several interactive interpretive stations have been developed. It is expected that fabrication and construction will begin in 2007 and extend into 2008.

An emergency shelter and outhouse facilities at Kekerten have been redeveloped and Nunavut Parks and Special Places is assessing interpretive signage and other site needs in keeping with capital planning.

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, around Bloody Falls on the lower Coppermine River. The Falls are the focal point of the park. The 10 hectare area contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago and a rich history of Arctic exploration. It is because of its rich history of occupation, and perhaps the most famous battle of the north, that Bloody Falls was declared a national historic site in 1978.

Local use of the area for camping and fishing is increasing, reflecting the traditional use of the site. The park is a convenient place to camp for canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River, and a newly constructed portage trail provides easy traverse around the rapids. A trail development study in 2006 included the design of ATV trails, parking areas and a bridge within the park in response to use impacts on slopes and embankments and related concerns for visitor safety. It also provided a means of directing visitor use to existing camping and day use areas. Construction and park development, in keeping with the study, is expected to begin in 2007.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Mallikjuaq ("*big wave*") is an appropriate name for an island where rounded rock hills and low tundra valleys resemble giant rolling waves. Mallikjuaq Territorial Park, a 45 minute walk from Cape Dorset, better reflects the human history than its geology. The park showcases archaeological sites and stone structures dating back over three millennia.

Nunavut Parks and Special Places completed site improvements at the Mallikjuaq Visitor Centre and fabricated and installed a new park entrance sign. Future work includes the development and construction of interpretive panels and boardwalks at some of the key locations in the park,

Kugluk Territorial Park.

Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut, 2004

Coppermine River Management Plan Initiated

The Coppermine River flows for 450 km over the Canadian Shield from its source at Lac de Gras, north of Great Slave Lake, into the Arctic Ocean at the community of Kugluktuk. Names like Bloody Falls, Muskox Rapids and Rocky Defile tell of the river's turbulent rapids and times past, and foreshadow adventure for river travelers of today.

It was stories of copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne, the first European to see the river, in 1771. Hearne's account of his overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. The copper deposits were important to the first peoples who lived there and many important archaeological sites are found along the river. Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, John Rae, and Vilhjalmur Stefansson used the Coppermine in their search for the Northwest Passage, the promise of copper, and as a fur trade route.

Caribou, muskox, wolverine, wolves, moose and fox are common throughout the Coppermine river watershed, as are arctic char and what has been proclaimed as a greater diversity of fish species than any other Arctic area. These resources have supported the traditional subsistence lifestyle of the Inuit and Dene and their ancestors for over 8,000 years. The river is also famous for its nesting raptors: gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks and golden and bald eagles.

The Coppermine River was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2002. In keeping with Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement negotiations related to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the community, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) and Nunavut Parks and Special Places initiated the development of a management plan as a final step toward full designation of the Coppermine River. Lead by the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association through a local advisory committee (including the KIA, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, the Community Lands and Resources Committee, Elders, youth, industry (through Miramar) and Nunavut Parks) the committee will also assist in public and stakeholder consultations and ensure the plan reflects what is important to all river stakeholders.

It is expected that the management plan will be completed in August 2007, to be presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Systems Board for approval at their 2008 spring meeting and later, full designation.

and a landing area for cruise ships and other visitors. These projects will, in part, protect archaeological sites and the land from deterioration which is necessary because of the increasing number of park visitors.

Ovayok Territorial Park

Ovayok, or Mount Pelly, is a large esker that dominates the landscape within this territorial park just 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. According to the local legend of Ovayok, the three esker mountains were once a family of giants who died of starvation while walking across Victoria Island in search of food. Visitors can explore the legend and the rich cultural history associated with Ovayok as they hike through the park, whether a day trip or camping for several days.

Ovayok Territorial Park is easily accessible by vehicle and visitors will likely see musk oxen while driving to, or within, the park. The area also is renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds, and many bird watchers from around the world are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

The design and printing of a park brochure and guidebook, the identification of hiking routes, and the fabrication of interpretive signage to support local outfitters providing tours to the park were initiated in 2006. Installation should be complete in summer 2007.

Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Parks

Located one kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins. A recent recreation study in Iqaluit found demand and use of the park has made Sylvia Grinnell Park Iqaluit's number one recreation site.

As a result of increased year-round use and related impacts, work continues on trail development and additional use areas. The development of an interpretive program has been completed and orientation and interpretive signs have been installed.

Qaummaarviit, an island located approximately 14 km west of Iqaluit by boat, is a Thule heritage site and represents more than 750 years of Inuit occupation. The remains of summer houses, kayak stands, meat caches and other archaeological features can be observed. The park also contains the remains of 11 winter houses which were built with raised living surfaces and deep entries to minimize cold living conditions. Department of Environment has redeveloped the interpretive walking trail and designed and installed new interpretive signs which offer a glimpse of the remarkable features left by past inhabitants of this area.

Nunavut Parks and Special Places is continuing to work with

the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, the Department of National Defense and the Rotary Club of Iqaluit to design and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River in keeping with the park master plan. A pedestrian bridge would connect park users to the other side of Sylvia Grinnell River and hiking to Qaummaarviit Territorial Park.

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Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park.

For More Information...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

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For More Information... continued

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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservations Areas address above.